



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was lead by RTM member Elizabeth Luck.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0030 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 19, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0024 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Sally McBee and Bruce Campbell - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Paul Bates - \$25.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Mystic Rehabilitation Center - \$50.00 - Maritime Academy Miscellaneous

Mr. Langdon - \$50.00 - DARE Miscellaneous

Marlene Terry Ziegler - \$51.50 - Library Miscellaneous

Various Donations - \$773.65 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Kathleen Miner, Pleasant Valley School Staff - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Various Donations - \$90.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds - \$898.47 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2007-0041 Open Space Plan

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0174 National Park Service - American Battlefield Protection Program

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0261 Updating of Land Use Regulations - Update

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0265 Board of Education Storage Needs

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0001 Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0002 Republican Town Committee Appointments (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0003 Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0004 Revised Position Descriptions (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0005 Town Council Rules Revisions (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0006 Property Acquisition/Sale (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0007 Labor Negotiations (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0008 Pending Litigation (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0009 Legislative Policy (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0010 Town Participation in CCM Lawsuits and Interventions (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0011 Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0012 Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0013 Joint Meeting with Stonington Board of Selectmen (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0029 Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2009 Standing Referral)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2009-0033 Submarine Capital of the World Sign

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

- 2009-0078 Proposed Legislation on Municipally Acquired Open Space**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0150 Healthy Groton Month**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2009-0322 Community Garden Report**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2010-0020 Extension of Auditor's Agreement**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2010-0022 Contribution to Haitian Relief Effort**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2010-0023 International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Membership**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2010-0028 License Agreement with Electric Boat to Allow Removal of Water Tower**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2010-0031 Appointment of Michael Sarasin to Historic District Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2010-0032 Appointment of Denis O'Brien to Retirement Board**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Mayor Streeter and all Councilors received emails and correspondence regarding the 2011 budget.

Councilor O'Beirne received a phone call from a member of the Board of Directors of the Submarine Museum requesting a letter of support from the Town. They are in the process of obtaining a decommissioned deep submergence rescue vessel named "Mystic". This vessel was designed to rescue sailors from a downed submarine and would be displayed outside the SubBase.

By Council consensus, the Town Manager will work with Councilor O'Beirne to draft a letter in support of obtaining this vessel for the museum.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a Permanent School Building Committee meeting, a Senior Citizen Coordinating Council meeting, and a Board of Education budget meeting. She stated that there will be a Town Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on February 17, 2010. Councilor Kolnaski received an invitation to visit Pfizer's Research and Development campus in Groton.

In response to numerous emails, the Town Manager addressed RTM Rep. Jack Sebastian's chart presentation regarding the budget. He stated that the data was incomplete and based solely on the local property tax without consideration of the decrease in revenues from the State and Federal government. This decrease results in a increased tax burden for the local taxpayer.

Councilor Sheets attended a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)/International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) workshop which is on GMTV and the Town website. Councilor Sheets attended the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community meeting at which it was announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded Groton \$198,000 to finance its energy conservation and energy efficiency programs.

2010-0037 Accidents at the Route 184/Route 27 Intersection

ACCIDENTS AT THE ROUTE 184/ROUTE 27 INTERSECTION

Councilor Sheets received a call regarding another accident at the intersection of Route 184 and Route 27, and requested a referral to the Public Safety Committee.

Town Councilors (continued)

Councilor Watson and Councilor Sheets attended a Southeastern CT Water Authority Advisory Board meeting. Councilor Watson was also present at a Southeastern CT Water Authority meeting. He stated that Southeastern Area Transit (SEAT) currently has two vacancies. Mayor Streeter requested that this vacancy be posted on GMTV.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended a Board of Education budget meeting and a CCM workshop for newly elected town officials.

Mayor Streeter attended the opening ceremony for the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital Sleep Disorder Facility, a public hearing regarding zoning of real estate open house signs, and a meeting with probate officials from Stonington, North Stonington, Ledyard, and Groton. He also attended a budget discussion with the Town Manager, Chairman of the Board of Education, and Superintendent of Schools. Mayor Streeter stated that the Animal Welfare League of New London will have a tag sale on February 13 and 14, 2010. The Mayor noted that there are rock formations on the Copp Property and there is a lye stone that in the past was used to make soap. Due to the unique nature of this stone, he has requested that it be preserved or moved to another location.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

No report.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

Mark Oefinger stated that there will be a goal-setting meeting on February 6, 2010, and a joint meeting with the Groton City Council to discuss the budget and Thames Street on February 8, 2010. The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

Councilor Peruzzotti read the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

The Mayor stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0020 Extension of Auditor's Agreement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the laws of Connecticut and the Town of Groton Charter require the Town Council to appoint a Town auditor or auditors, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton in 2005 appointed the firm of BlumShapiro for a term of three years, and reappointed the firm for an additional term of two years in 2008, and

WHEREAS, the firm of BlumShapiro has shown a high level of experience in municipal auditing and has served well as Town Auditor for the last five years, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may execute a two-year extension of the current auditing contract with BlumShapiro.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0022 Contribution to Haitian Relief Effort

RESOLUTION MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO HAITIAN RELIEF EFFORTS

WHEREAS, Port-au-Prince Haiti and its environs were devastated by a series of earthquakes on January 12, 2010, and

WHEREAS, Governor Rell has issued a call for charity and compassion and provided information on reputable relief organizations, and

WHEREAS, relief efforts are ongoing and monetary donations to relief organizations are desperately needed, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Groton hereby authorizes a \$2,000 contribution to Americares, a relief organization identified by Governor Rell, from funds

previously appropriated for FYE 2010 under the function Legislative Policy 1001.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Johnson will vote against this resolution because he thinks that donations are a personal choice.

The Town Manager stated that a list of health organizations was provided by Governor Rell, and that AmeriCares was chosen because they are already in Haiti.

Councilor Peruzzotti is in agreement with Councilor Johnson and will be voting against this resolution.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Opposed: 2 - Councilor Johnson and Councilor Peruzzotti

2010-0023

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Membership

RESOLUTION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON IN THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (ICLEI)

WHEREAS, ICLEI collects and disseminates information for municipalities on energy efficiency and sustainability, and

WHEREAS, a Town of Groton membership in ICLEI will provide valuable informational support for the Town of Groton's Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the expenditure of \$600 for 2010 membership in ICLEI and directs the Town Manager to allocate funds in the FYE 2011 Proposed Budget for 2011 membership.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0028

License Agreement with Electric Boat to Allow Removal of Water Tower

RESOLUTION APPROVING A LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND ELECTRIC BOAT CORPORATION FOR REMOVAL OF FALLEN WATER TOWER

WHEREAS, The Town of Groton ("Town") is the owner of the real property located at 500 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut, which property, or a substantial portion of it, is the site of the Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Electric Boat Corporation ("EB") is the owner of the real property located at 456 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut, which property is adjacent to 500 Poquonnock Road; and

WHEREAS, a water tower on EB's property collapsed many years ago and remains of the tower lie on both 500 Poquonnock Road and 456 Poquonnock Road; and

WHEREAS, EB desires to remove all of the remains of the water tower from both properties, and the Town Council, pursuant to a License Agreement, desires to grant EB a limited, non-exclusive temporary license to enter and utilize a specific portion of 500 Poquonnock Road for the purposes of removing the remains of the water tower; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may execute the License Agreement referred to herein along with any ancillary documents that may be required.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0031

Appointment of Michael Sarasin to Historic District Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAEL SARASIN TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Michael A. Sarasin, 27 Gravel Street, Mystic, is appointed to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/10.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0032

Appointment of Denis O'Brien to Retirement Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING DENIS O'BRIEN TO THE RETIREMENT BOARD

RESOLVED that the Town Council appoints Denis M. O'Brien, 23 Payer Lane, Mystic, to the Retirement Board for a term ending 12/31/12.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant